

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

OLL 84-0782/1

10 APR 1984

*Big File:
Telecommunications*

Ms. Victoria Toensing, Chief Counsel
Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Vicki:

This is in response to your request for our views on whether Agency equities would be adversely affected by S. 1917, which eliminates the statutory basis for the "Fairness Doctrine" and the authority of the Federal Communications Commission to revoke a broadcast station's license for not implementing this Doctrine. As you are aware, the "Fairness Doctrine" applies primarily to political and editorial broadcasts, and assures that opposing viewpoints, as well as opposition candidates, are given an equal opportunity to express their views. Senator Packwood, who introduced the bill, has stated that the purpose of the bill is to remove the possibility of federal regulation of the print media, as technological changes increasingly force newspapers into telecommunications.

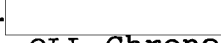
Our analysis of the bill indicates that Agency activities would not be impaired by passage of this bill. If you have any additional questions regarding this bill, please contact David Pearline of my office.

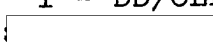
Sincerely,



Deputy Director, Office of Legislative Liaison

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LEG/OLL: ;grf (6 April 1984)

100-6803

Victo Toensing, Chief Counsel
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
224-1700

Ernie -

Sen. Goldwater wanted
me to check with you
that the enclosed bill
does not affect national
security - (regardless of
its merits or ~~lack~~ ^{lack} thereof)

Thanks
Viki

S. 1917

To provide that the Federal Communications Commission shall not regulate the content of certain communications.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 3, 1983

Mr. PACKWOOD introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To provide that the Federal Communications Commission shall not regulate the content of certain communications.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That this Act may be cited as the "Freedom of Expression
4 Act of 1983".

FINDINGS

6 SEC. 2. The Congress finds that—

7 (1) free and unregulated communications media
8 are essential to our democratic society;

9 (2) there no longer is a scarcity of outlets for elec-
10 tronic communications:

3

1 (B) striking out the semicolon and "or" in
2 paragraph (6) and inserting in lieu thereof a
3 period; and

4 (C) striking out paragraph (7);

5 (2) by repealing section 315;

6 (3) by amending section 326 to read as follows:

7 "SEC. 326. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to
8 give the Commission the power to—

9 “(1) censor any communication;

10 “(2) review the content of any completed commu-
11 nication; or

12 “(3) promulgate any regulation or fix any condi-
13 tion which shall interfere with the right of free speech,
14 including any requirement of an opportunity to be af-
15 forded for the presentation of any view on an issue.”.

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